

H 1444

Q U E R I E S,

SUBMITTED TO THE

CONSIDERATION

OF THE

P U B L I C.

VINCIT AMOR PATRIÆ.

D U B L I N:

PRINTED BY T. EWING IN CAPLE-STREET.

M. D. C. C. X I.

1781

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

OF NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE HISTORY OF MAN



PUBLISHED BY

WILLIAM AND SON, PATRICK

DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY T. EWING IN CAPLE STREET



QUERIES, &c.

Q U E R Y i.

WHETHER, in any other country, the common food of the poor varies so much in price as it does in Ireland? whether potatoes are not often sold for double the price, in June, and July, for which they were sold in December?

Qu. 2. Whether there be any proportion observed between the price of provisions and the price of labour, throughout the greatest part of Ireland, even when provisions are cheapest?

Qu. 3. Whether, in many parts of this kingdom, the labouring people are not, through want of employment, and the excessive dearth of provisions, reduced to the necessity of quitting their homes every Summer, to support themselves and families by begging?

Qu. 4. Whether it be not, at least, as meritorious to preserve people from the necessity of begging, as to bestow alms upon beggars?

Qu. 5. Whether the Irish farmers in general can afford keeping up their corn more than one year?

A 2

Qu. 6.

Qu. 6. Whether a number of granaries, and corn-factors, in the inland parts of the kingdom, would not contribute much to keep the price of corn nearly equal throughout the year? and, whether that would not be of great advantage to the farmer, and to the public?

Qu. 7. Whether there would be any danger of the corn-factors monopolizing the corn of the kingdom, and fixing their own price upon it?

Qu. 8. Whether a moderate premium on Irish wheat, which had lain at least twelve months in a granary, and sold out of it, at such public markets as should be thought proper to fix on, would not induce people to employ their money in this trade?

Qu. 9. Whether corn granaries are not more necessary in Ireland than in any other country we know; as the chief food of the poor is a root, perishable within the year, and liable to be destroyed by frosts?

Qu. 10. Whether we have not often fatally experienced the want of granaries in Ireland? and, whether barley-meal was not sold in Galway, at one particular time last year, at the extravagant price of three shillings and six-pence a peck, weighing twenty-one pounds?

Qu. 11. Whether mobs do not frequently prevent the exportation of corn, even from one part of the kingdom to another? and, whether a crime so destructive to the welfare and happiness of this country should not be made felony?

Qu. 12.

Qu. 12. Whether, amongst the various means of enriching a nation, that which employs the greatest number of hands should not be preferred?

Qu. 13. Whether it be probable that agriculture, or manufactures, can ever flourish in a country which considers the exportation of beef, hides, and butter as valuable branches of trade?

Qu. 14. Whether every discouragement to the beef and butter trade would not operate in favour of agriculture, and the linen manufacture, in this kingdom?

Qu. 15. Whether, if the victualling trade was checked, our merchants would not turn their thoughts to some other branch, as the Newfoundland, whale, or herring fishery, or the establishment of some fishery on our own coasts?

Qu. 16. Whether any other trade which our merchants would engage in, instead of the victualling trade, would not employ much more shipping, and a much greater number of our seamen?

Qu. 17. Whether the richest, and most fertile part of Ireland is not appropriated to the fattening of oxen; whilst tillage is carried on in distinct parts of the kingdom, where they keep no more cattle than what is barely sufficient to till their grounds?

Qu. 18. Whether, in England, the farmers do not fatten their cattle, and raise their corn, on the same farms; by which management they are able to make a great quantity of manure, and highly improve their grounds?

Qu. 19. Whether there are not large tracts of mountain in Ireland, very capable of producing good rye and oats, where you do not see an acre of either? and, whether the owners of such mountains consult their own, or the public interest, in not having straw to make manure?

Qu. 20. Whether the great scarcity of cash, lately felt in this kingdom, was not partly owing to the large remittances made to England for corn?

Qu. 21. Whether the large quantities of grain, imported every year into Ireland, do not plainly shew, that the encouragement (considerable as it is) which has been for several years past given to agriculture has not hitherto had the desired effect?

Qu. 22. Whether an additional duty on beef and butter, when exported, would not contribute much to promote tillage and industry in this kingdom? and, whether both duty and premiums, operating together, would not answer much better, than either alone?

Qu. 23. Whether, though the duty proposed should not immediately be productive of the good consequences expected from it, and that our beef and butter trade should continue to be considerable, the duty would not, notwithstanding, answer an excellent purpose, if applied in premiums for promoting agriculture and manufactures?

Qu. 24.

Qu. 24. Whether a very considerable proportion of any duty laid on beef and butter would not be paid by the consumers of them ?

Qu. 25. Whether the temporary and precarious advantage of a few individuals should have more weight than the permanent welfare of millions ?

Qu. 26. Whether there be any thing more difficult than to get the better of prejudices ? whether there be not part of the kingdom in which they still plow their horses by the tail ?

Qu. 27. Whether the distresses of the lower class of people amongst us are not in a great measure owing to land-jobbers or forestallers of land, who become tenants of large tracts of ground, which they let out in small parcels to cottagers, for short terms, at rack-rents ?

Qu. 28. Whether a landlord, who would divide his estate into small farms, and let them, separately, for the term for which he would let the whole to a land-jobber, would not considerably encrease his own income, by dividing with his tenants the profit which the land-jobber would have ?

Qu. 29. Whether land-jobbing be known in England ? and, whether it should be permitted in any country ?

Qu. 30. Whether we can expect to see Ireland highly improved, or a yeomanry established amongst us, whilst land-jobbing continues to be practised ?

Qu. 31. Whether any manufacture be established on a solid basis, the materials of which are supplied by another country ?

Qu. 32. Whether we may not, if we thought proper, raise a sufficient quantity of corn, at least for our own consumption. and hemp and flax enough to supply our manufactures ?

Qu. 33. Whether the cultivation of hemp be not almost totally neglected in this kingdom ? and, what is it owing to ?

Qu. 34. Whether the linen manufacture was ever known to flourish long, in any country in which provisions were sold at an high price ?

Qu. 35. Whether there be any sufficient reason to think that the linen manufacture may not, by proper encouragement, be made to flourish as much in the Southern, as in the Northern parts of this kingdom ?

Qu. 36. Whether Ireland doth not remit annually to England above one hundred and forty thousand pounds for coals alone ?

Qu. 37. Whether it be not extraordinary, that, in a country where fewel is so important an article of expence, more attention should not be paid to it, in establishing our manufactories ?

Qu. 38. Whether those parts of the kingdom, in which there are coal mines, are not the properest for manufactures ?

Qu. 39. Whether the exorbitant price of fewel be not a cause of great distress to the poor, in many parts of Ireland ?

Qu. 40.

Qu. 40. Whether public coal-yards established in every considerable town in the kingdom, would not prove the most effectual remedy for this evil?

Qu. 41. Whether a salary of thirty or forty pounds *per annum* to the clerk of each such coal-yard, with an allowance of ten pounds a year for the rent of each yard, would not be a light national burthen? whether the whole would amount to more than a thousand pounds *per annum*?

Qu. 42. Whether the corporations of most of the considerable towns in the kingdom would not gladly advance a sum of money sufficient to purchase a stock of coals for their poor?

Qu. 43. Whether a very moderate profit on coals, sold out of such coal-yards, would not defray the deficiencies occasioned by waste?

Qu. 44. Whether, considering the poverty of the lower class of people here, who cannot afford laying in any stock of coal, and the long continuance of westerly winds almost every Winter, which prevents our receiving any fresh supply of coal, sometimes for seven or eight weeks together, the distressed situation of the poor be not highly deserving the attention of the legislature?

Qu. 45. Whether the capital of any country is the place to establish a coarse and cheap manufacture?

Qu. 46. Whether the manufacture of coarse cloth be not carried on in the cheapest part of England?

England? whether it has not failed in Somersetshire, and Wiltshire, owing to the dearness of provisions? and, whether any kind of cloth be made in London?

Qu. 47. Whether manufactures are not likely to succeed best, where there are the fewest temptations to vice and idleness?

Qu. 48. Whether the lower class of people are not much more profligate in large, than small towns?

Qu. 49. Whether the consumption of malt-liquor be not, every year, decreasing in Ireland; and the consumption of spirituous liquors increasing in proportion?

Qu. 50. Whether this preference of spirituous to malt liquors be not productive of very bad consequences, with respect to the health and industry of the people?

Qu. 51. Whether our manufacturers, with their families, should be condemned to be starved, because their goods have not so good a gloss as some foreign manufactures have?

Qu. 52. Whether the fair sex, in whom sentiment is so much stronger than in men, and whom it renders so amiable, would not with great propriety take the lead in rescuing our manufacturers and their families from ruin?

Qu. 53. Whether a fair-one, dressed in the manufactures of her country, and her beauty heightened by benevolent affections, would want the aid of any foreign ornament?

Qu. 54.

Qu. 54. Whether the earthen-ware, made in Dublin, be not superior in beauty and quality to most of what is imported into this kingdom? and, whether, notwithstanding that, the importation of earthen-ware is in any considerable degree lessened?

Qu. 55. Whether a small bounty on the sale of Dublin-ware, in Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Belfast, and Londonderry, would not introduce it into use, throughout the kingdom?

Qu. 56. Whether two or three hundred pounds, expended in such a bounty, would not cause a saving to the nation of many thousands?

Qu. 57. Whether the common people of this kingdom need any inducement to idleness? and, whether, if they did, it should be applied at the time of the year when their industry is most necessary?

Qu. 58. Whether the farmers, in several parts of Ireland, do not, with great reason, complain of the loss they suffer, by having horse-races in their neighbourhood, in the harvest season?

Qu. 59. Whether the legislature should not interfere, to prevent the amusements of individuals from becoming hurtful to the public?

Qu. 60. Whether it be reconcileable to any principles of justice, policy, or humanity, to abandon the poor, whom age, or sickness, has rendered incapable of maintaining themselves by labour?

Qu. 61.

Qu. 61. Whether a middle course may not be taken between the burthensome poor-rates which are paid in England, and the total neglect of the poor, with which the legislature of Ireland is reproached?

Qu. 62. Whether a stipend of one shilling *per week*, to every parishioner rendered incapable of labour by age or infirmities, to be paid by the church-wardens, out of the lands within each parish, would be an intolerable burthen on the proprietors of land in Ireland?

Qu. 63. Whether our absentees contribute any thing towards the maintenance (such as it is at present) of our poor? and, whether, if this mode of provision was adopted, they would not bear a very considerable share of the burthen?

Qu. 64. Whether it would not be commendable in gentlemen, to ascertain, for the information of the legislature, the expence of such a provision, by short experiments made in their respective parishes?

Qu. 65. Whether the police of such of our small towns, as are not corporate, be not in general shamefully neglected; the markets, tolls, and weight of bread, scarcely ever attended to?

Qu. 66. Whether a magistrate be not, in conscience, accountable for the exactions, which he knowingly permits; having sworn, at his entrance into office, to execute the laws for the prevention of them?

Qu. 67.

Qu. 67. Whether the various impositions, which tradesmen and manufacturers are exposed to, in towns which are not corporate, be not one cause of their preferring to live in large, rather than small towns?

Qu. 68. Whether it is not more for the interest of every country, that the bulk of its manufactures should be dispersed in a number of small towns and villages, than collected together in two or three large overgrown cities?

Qu. 69. Whether the English have not lost the Levant trade, by the French under-selling them? and, whether they can ever hope to recover it, unless they can prevail on their manufacturers to diet on black bread and garlick, or on some food as cheap?

Qu. 70. Whether it would not be much for the advantage of England, that the Irish should get any part of this trade from the French? and, whether it would not be worth while to try how far it is practicable?

Qu. 71. Whether the cloths, made for the Levant trade, are not much too thin and light for use in this climate?

Qu. 72. Whether a permission to the Irish, to export such cloths to England, to be from thence exported to the Levant, would lessen the importation of English cloths into Ireland?

Qu. 73. Whether, on the contrary, we should not, probably, manufacture less cloth for our own use?

Qu. 74.

Qu. 74. Whether such a permission would not detain in Ireland thousands of people, whom necessity will, otherwise, oblige to transport themselves to America?

Qu. 75. Whether it be not of much greater importance to England, that Ireland should be well peopled, than that North-America should?

Qu. 76. Whether the Interests of England and Ireland are not inseparable?

Qu. 77. Whether it be for the Interest of either, that North-America should be well peopled and supplied with manufacturers?

Qu. 78. Whether wool has not been for some years past, considerably dearer in Ireland, than in England? and, whether it has not been owing to some other cause, besides the encrease of population, of tillage, or of manufactures?

Qu. 79. Whether toasts given at public entertainments, and pompous declarations, be better evidences of patriotism, than the providing means of a comfortable subsistence for the industrious poor of our own country?

Qu. 80. Whether, by lessening their demesnes by half, and improving them highly, the gentlemen of Ireland would not greatly benefit themselves, and beautify the country?

Qu. 81. Whether the difficulty, in many parts of Ireland, of getting timber proper for country uses to buy, be not one cause of the country people's stealing timber so frequently?

Qu. 82.

Qu. 82. Whether, if gentlemen, who have young plantations, were to encourage the bringing such timber, as country people have most occasion for, to the fairs and markets in their neighbourhood, it might not be a means of saving many of their trees ?

Qu. 83. What proportion of our taxes do absentees, at present, pay ? and, what proportion would they pay, if the exchequer were supplied solely by a land-tax ?

Qu. 84. Whether there be any other country, in which so considerable a proportion of the landed interest, as our absentees' estates amount to, contributes so little as it does in Ireland towards the support of government ?

Qu. 85. Whether what have been deemed luxuries, at one time, are not reckoned necessities, at another ?

Qu. 86. Whether the heavy duties on numerous articles we import, and which, from our being long accustomed to make use of, we cannot at present do without, be not, in effect, a burthensome land-tax on the men of landed property who live in Ireland ?

Qu. 87. Whether the present unequal taxation in Ireland does not deserve the most serious attention of the legislature ?

T H E E N D.

Qu. 82. Whether it is consistent with the
 young plantations, were to enclose the
 the land, as many people have been
 common to the land and water in the
 without, it is not to be a means of
 of their work.
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 would they pay in the proportion of the
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THE END

